



2025 CALA Canada Annual Conference Program 12:00 – 4:00 PM (Eastern Time), May 5, 2025, Hybrid

In- person attendance: Toronto Metropolitan University
Virtual attendance: Zoom
Details will be provided after registration.

11:45–12:00

Check in

12:00–12:10

Introduction

Yanli Li (President), Wei Xuan (Vice President), CALA Canada Chapter 2024-2025

Welcome Remarks

Mark Robertson (Dean), Lei Jin (Associate Dean)
Toronto Metropolitan University Libraries

12:10–12:40

Keynote: Moving Up to Leadership Ladders: Opportunities and Challenges for Chinese American Librarians

With more and more Chinese Americans/Canadians join the library profession in U.S. and in Canada, many of them seek and take advantage of various learning opportunities that prepare them for the leadership positions in all types of libraries. The presenter in this session will share her personal journey toward a research library leadership position in the United States and look into the opportunities and challenges for Chinese American/Canadian librarians in seeking library leadership positions.

Dr. Shali Zhang, Dean of Libraries, Auburn University
SLZ0002@Auburn.edu

Section 1: Facilitated by Wei Xuan

12:40–1:00

Understanding Job Satisfaction of Racial Minority Academic Librarians

Job satisfaction of academic librarians refers to the degree to which these professionals feel content and fulfilled with various aspects of their professional roles. Extensive research has been conducted on the job satisfaction of academic librarians. High job satisfaction is closely linked to improved service quality, reduced absenteeism, and increased retention and recruitment in libraries. However, very few studies have directly addressed job satisfaction of racial minority librarians in Canada. In this session, the presenters will share findings from the Visible Minority Librarians of Canada Network (ViMLoC) 2021 redux survey. The presentation will explore how demographic characteristics, workplace inclusivity, and experiences of racial microaggressions relate to the job satisfaction of racial minority librarians in Canadian academic libraries.

Yanli Li, Business and Economics Librarian, Wilfrid Laurier University
yli@wlu.ca
Maha Kumaran, Acting Assistant Dean, Collections and Discovery; Librarian, Education & Music Library, University of Saskatchewan
maha.kumaran@usask.ca

1:00–1:20

Enhancing Academic Library Services: Developing Bibliometrics and Research Impact Guides

The rapidly growing field of bibliometrics and research impact (BRI) services has become a key area of interest for many universities. Academic libraries have significantly transformed in recent years, expanding their services to include BRI. The responsible use of BRI has highlighted the need for a deeper understanding within the academic community. Libraries are now playing a crucial role in providing instruction on BRI, necessitating the creation or updating of BRI guides. To develop a new library guide for researchers and other campus patrons, authors at the University of Windsor conducted a literature review and environmental scan focused on BRI and academic libraries, particularly examining instructional materials on Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) library websites. This presentation will provide a literature review on BRI in academic libraries and an overview of BRI guides at OCUL libraries. The presenters will share their experiences in conceptualizing, understanding the current status and needs of BRI services, and building a new BRI guide for the library.

Guoying Liu, Librarian, Leddy Library, University of Windsor, gliu@uwindsor.ca
Amelia Ritchie, Librarian, Leddy Library, University of Windsor
aritchie@uwindsor.ca
Pascal Calarco, Librarian, Leddy Library, University of Windsor
pcalarco@uwindsor.ca

<p>1:20-1:40</p>	<p>Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis</p> <p>"Libraries as Partners for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Times of Crisis" is a two-year grant project funded via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). It investigates multi-type libraries' roles during community-wide crises (e.g. severe weather, wildfires, public health emergencies), and especially their role as partners to emergency response organizations such as the fire service, emergency medical services, and others. At the CALA Canada Chapter 2024 conference, members of the Libraries as Partners team introduced the project and its goals to attendees. Since then, the project has completed a survey of Illinois libraries and two Community Engagement Roundtable discussions to gain a deeper understanding of libraries' partnerships during emergencies. At the 2025 conference, an update will be provided on the survey and roundtable results, as well as best practices for library emergency response partnerships and directions for future research.</p> <p><i>Lian Ruan, Head Librarian and Director of IFSI International Programs, Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, lruan@illinois.edu</i></p> <p><i>Kelda Habing, Research and Grants Librarian, Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, khabinq2@illinois.edu</i></p>
<p>1:40-2:00</p>	<p>A Case Study of Multilingual Collections at the London Public Library</p> <p>This research examines the representation and accessibility of World Language collections at the London Public Library (LPL) through a demographic analysis of London and data mined from LPL's online catalogue. A potential community survey may be conducted, depending on the ethics review timeline. Evidence indicates that while LPL has made progress in enhancing linguistic diversity within its multilingual collections, significant gaps persist. Challenges remain in both representation and accessibility, limiting the availability of culturally relevant materials for diverse communities. To better serve London's multilingual population, LPL must adopt more inclusive collection policies, enhance accessibility measures, and actively engage with community members to align resources with their needs. Addressing these issues is essential to ensuring that all patrons, regardless of language background, can find meaningful and culturally affirming materials in their public library.</p> <p><i>Yiping Liu, MLIS Student, Western University, yliu4823@uwo.ca</i></p>
<p>2:00-2:10</p>	<p>Break</p>

Section 2: Facilitated by Yanli Li

2:10-2:30	<p>Accuracy of Basic LLM Recall of LC Classifications</p> <p>Recently, we had to work with collections data that had become disconnected from its LC classifications. Knowing that many LLMs have ingested a great deal of bibliographic metadata, but also wary of the possible mis-recollections of that data, we tested a few systems for feasibility with spot checks against Worldcat for accuracy. While the spot checks met our needs at the time, the question remained, how accurately can these systems recall LC classification on a “no frills” basis (i.e. without setting up a custom GPT with a Worldcat API or something similar). This proposal aims to present an intentional, methodical testing across the LC classification, to check the error rate in applying LC classifications, and whether certain classes present more of a challenge for LLMs to “recall”.</p> <p><i>Shawn Vaillancourt, Collections Analytics Librarian, University of Houston Libraries, svaillancourt@uh.edu</i></p>
2:30-2:50	<p>Artificial Intelligence Information Literacy in Academia: Challenges, Innovations, and Future Prospects</p> <p>This presentation is based on a forthcoming peer-reviewed article exploring AI's evolving role in academic research. Our study introduces Critical AI Literacy and Practical AI Literacy, two essential frameworks designed not only for Chinese studies but also for the humanities in general. These literacies are crucial for evaluating and effectively using both generative AI tools—such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, and DeepSeek—and the growing number of academic database-driven AI tools like Semantic Scholar, Scopus AI, DBpia IDEA, CNKI SMART, and JSTOR's Generative AI tool currently in beta. Our findings highlight the urgent need for new methods to navigate AI-driven research strategies as AI reshapes academic practices. We advocate stronger engagement with database providers, collaboration, and conversation among librarians to enhance academic integrity and research methodologies. This presentation will discuss our key findings and propose actionable approaches to AI literacy that will be vital for future academic research.</p> <p><i>Liuyi (Cecilia) Zhang, Chinese Studies Librarian, University of Kansas ceciliazh@ku.edu</i></p>
2:50-3:10	<p>Beyond Automation: Embracing AI as a Collaborative Partner in Librarianship and Life</p> <p>Since ChatGPT's launch in 2022, AI tools have become integral to my work and life, serving as my teacher, assistant, coworker, and even companion. From supporting research consultations on unfamiliar topics to crafting sensitive emails, AI has enhanced efficiency and problem-solving. Beyond librarianship, it has helped me strategize elder care, refine English fluency, and distill complex research into actionable insights. Yet, integrating AI is not just about automation</p>

	<p>- it requires AI literacy: an understanding of its limitations, biases, and ethical implications. In this session, I'll explore how librarians can harness AI as a co-intelligent ally while maintaining critical oversight. Attendees will gain practical strategies for balancing AI's capabilities with ethical responsibility, fostering adaptability, and embedding AI literacy into their workflows. Whether you're new to AI or a seasoned user, this talk will inspire a reimagined, collaborative approach to AI in librarianship and everyday life.</p> <p><i>Xuemei Li, Data Services Librarian (Finance), York University, lixuemei@yorku.ca</i></p>
<p>3:10-3:30</p>	<p>Unveiling Global Chinese Businesses in the Early 20th Century</p> <p>This presentation details a novel approach to historical data extraction and analysis. I utilized the Google Gemini API within a Python script to process a digitized directory of early 20th-century global Chinese businesses. The API performed Optical Character Recognition (OCR) on the traditional Chinese text within the PDF, extracting key business information. This extracted data was then analyzed and visualized to unveil findings revealing: (1) the geographical distribution of these businesses, displayed on an interactive world map; (2) the predominant business categories engaged in by overseas Chinese; (3) common naming conventions employed by these enterprises; and (4) linguistic patterns evident in the transliteration of foreign place names into Chinese, offering insight into early immigrant experiences and language adaptation. This methodology demonstrates the power of combining modern AI tools with historical sources to uncover hidden historical patterns.</p> <p><i>Helen Tang, Public Service Librarian, Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library, University of Toronto, helent.tang@utoronto.ca</i></p>
<p>3:30-3:50</p>	<p>AI in Action: Enhancing Learning and Research through Intelligent Applications</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly impacted academic and research settings, providing powerful tools that enhance learning, streamline research processes, and support academic success. As AI technologies continue to evolve, libraries are adopting AI applications to better serve students, faculty, and researchers. This presentation will explore the diverse applications of AI that are assisting in the fields of learning and research.</p> <p><i>Cindy Li, Associate Director of Tech & Innovation, Pratt Institute Libraries llic32@pratt.edu</i></p>
<p>3:50-4:00</p>	<p>Wrap-up</p>